

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /083 W
-----080763 192038Z /66

R 181605Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4292
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, IT, SU
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON GOI REACTION TO SOVIET TRIALS

REF: A. ROME 12742 B. ROME 12975 C. ROME 13105

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON JULY 15, DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO ECONOMIC SUMMIT, FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI PROVIDED FURTHER DETAILS ON GOI REACTIONS TO SOVIET TRIALS. WHILE FORLANI DID NOT MAKE CLEAR WHETHER MAIN PURPOSE OF HIS CALLING IN SOVIET AMBASSADOR RYZHOV ON JULY 11 (REF B) HAD BEEN TO EXPRESS GOI'S CONCERN OVER SOVIET TRIALS, FORLANI NOTED THAT OTHER TOPICS (HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED SALT) HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. FORLANI REPORTED THAT RYZHOV HAD REACTED VERY SHARPLY TO FORLANI'S
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EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN, COMPLAINING THAT THE WEST WAS WORRIED ABOUT TWO INDIVIDUALS RATHER THAN THE 240 MILLION INHABITANTS OF THE SOVIET UNION. FORLANI REJOINED THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO THESE PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED ALL 240 MILLION.

2.RE MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT PERTINI TO BREZHNEV (REF A),

PERTINI, ACCORDING TO FORLANI, FIRST ASKED PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI AND FORLANI WHETHER THEY WOULD OBJECT TO HIS SENDING SUCH A MESSAGE. ANDREOTTI AND FORLANI SAID THEY WOULD NOT OBJECT SINCE PERTINI'S PROPOSED MESSAGE REFLECTED GOI POLICY. FORLANI INDICATED THAT FOREIGN OFFICE HAD IN FACT DRAFTED PERTINI'S MESSAGE. IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION, FORLANI SAID HE BELIEVED THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME A PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC HAD SENT SUCH A MESSAGE.

3. ACCORDING TO FORLANI, PERTINI FOLLOWED UP HIS INITIATIVE BY HIS ACTIONS AT JULY 14 RECEPTION HE GAVE FOR CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. WITH AMBASSADOR RYZHOV STANDING NEXT TO THE PAPAL NUNCIO, PERTINI EMBRACED THE LATTER, ASKED THAT HE CONVEY HIS WARM GREETINGS TO THE POPE AND APPLAUDED THE POPE'S STRONG DEFENSE OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES. GARDNER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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